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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/066,779	02/06/2002	Juan Pablo Sanchez	3121185.0008	4548

7590 09/26/2006

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CANADA

EXAMINER

HARBECK, TIMOTHY M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3628

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/066,779	SANCHEZ, JUAN PABLO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Timothy M. Harbeck	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>06/26/2002</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided (Emphasis added). The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 recites the limitation "said predetermined discount" in the first line of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. For the purposes of examination the examiner has interpreted this as "said predetermined percentage."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

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The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aharoni (US 5,694,552).

Re Claim 1: Aharoni discloses a financing method incorporating a new use of at least one negotiable instrument which is utilized by a buyer, seller and a financial organization, said method is comprised in the steps of:

- A financial institution concluding an agreement defining the rights and obligations between each set party when the buyer agrees to at least utilize a negotiable instrument recognizable by the financial institution (Column 2, lines 30-39)
- The buyer and a supplier concluding a transaction where by the supplier supplies goods or services to the buyer for an invoiced amount (Column 3, lines 1-2)
- The buyer tendering to the supplier a postdated negotiable instrument in the amount of the invoiced value (Column 3, lines 2-6)
- The supplier presenting the financial institution with the postdated negotiable instrument, the financial institution immediately remitting to the supplier the tendered amount of the negotiable instrument minus a predetermined percentage (Column 3, lines 8-12)

- The financial institution depositing the negotiable instrument on the due date there for collection in the normal banking system in the same manner as any check drawn the buyers account (Column 3, lines 12-15)

Re Claim 2: Aharoni discloses the claimed method supra and further discloses wherein said negotiable instrument being a check drawn upon the buyer's bank account (Column 4, lines 9-12)

Re Claim 3: Aharoni discloses the claimed method supra and further discloses wherein said check including a unique identification code recognizable by said financial institution (Column 4, lines 12-15)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aharoni.

Re Claim 4: Aharoni discloses the claimed method supra but does not explicitly disclose the step wherein said financial institution providing to said buyer a percentage of said predetermined percentage when said negotiable instrument is deposited in said banking system. However Aharoni does teach that the Trade Acceptance Draft Participation Agreement defines the rights and obligations of the seller and the financial institution. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art for the

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seller to include certain buyer incentives in order to attract buyers to participate to this alternative transaction. A buyer might be reluctant to utilize these alternative means without some form of reconciliation and therefore it would be in the sellers best interest to provide such incentives and considerations.

Re Claim 5: Aharoni discloses the claimed method supra and further discloses wherein said predetermined percentage being determined by the amount of said negotiable instrument (Column 3, lines 10-12 "portion of the face amount."). Aharoni does not explicitly disclose wherein said predetermined percentage being determined by the length of said postdate. Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known in the art that a later postdate on a receivable indicates a higher risk of non-payment. Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to factor the added risk of a longer postdate into the fee or predetermined percentage in order to be compensated for the additional exposure.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Harbeck whose telephone number is 571-272-8123. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 571-272-6799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


HYUNG SOUHN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600